

Board Meeting of the Northampton Arts Council

10 December 2019

Municipal

Present: Rachel Hart, Freeman Stein, Courtney Hummel, Brian Foote, Kathy Service, Eamon Crowley-Edge, Lori Steiner

Regrets: Ellen Augarten, Danielle Amodeo, Esther White, Stephen Petegorsky, Kathy Murri, Alan Schneider

Municipal Meeting

Meeting commenced 7:10 pm

Meeting Minutes' Approval

The minutes were tabled until the next meeting

Biennial

The next Biennial is in two years. Brian mentioned that the communication needs to be better in the future with the artists.

Lori thought there were too many people for hanging and it became cumbersome. She thinks 3 people for hanging should be the max next time.

Cinema

KidsBeat Fest Planning - Brian will share the spreadsheet for the choices and we'll need to pick the films in the next week or so.

Grant Round

Allocation -

Top score was The Performance Project

Our funds are \$20,000. The amount requested was \$89,598. We usually fund roughly 26 projects. We experimented with taking the top scores and seeing how many of those we could fund to their full request amount. By doing this, we could fully fund 18 grants. Some caveats to this though are that these top scores are people who know how to write grants, have applied before, etc. So they are projects that might not need to be fully funded.

The plan for funding was to look at the projects that had a score of 13 and above and fund those, chipping away at the amounts until we reached our fund maximum.

Embodied Leadership Project - \$1800 was asked for. Freeman said \$500 and it was seconded.

Children's Songs - \$500 was asked for. \$250 was suggested and seconded.

First Meetings - \$500 was asked for. Freeman said to fully fund this. Eamon said \$400. This was seconded.

NHS Honors Arts Alumni Exhibition - \$1200 was asked for. Lori said \$1,000, but since it's alumni and to honor the art teacher, Freeman suggested there is likely another source for funding. Kathy suggested \$800. It was seconded.

SCDT Spring Artist Series - \$800 was suggested and seconded. \$800 was awarded

Artists of Springfield MA - \$760 was asked for. Kathy said \$500. This was seconded.

Martin Cortes - \$1,818 was asked for. \$1,000 was suggested and seconded.

Seeing Everyday - \$750 was requested. \$500 was suggested and seconded.

A History of Our Times - \$1,200 was requested. \$900 was suggested and seconded.

Tinydance - \$800 was requested. \$500 was suggested and seconded/thirded. \$500 was awarded

Art Salon - \$400 was requested. \$250 was awarded as a seal of approval

Voices Carry - \$1,500 was requested. \$1,000 was thrown out and seconded/thirded.

Lyra Music Festival - \$800 was requested. \$600 was suggested and seconded.

Abandoned Phone Booth Project - \$600 was requested and granted

Barter Night Out - \$1,200 was requested. \$1,000 was suggested and seconded.

Extrication - \$600 was requested. \$400 was suggested and seconded.

A Gathering of Brilliants - \$1,500 was requested. \$900 was suggested and seconded.

Emerging Playwrights - \$1,250 was requested. \$1,000 was thrown out. Then \$800. But since it was a higher merit, \$1000 was agreed upon

Emerging Voices - Fully funded at \$600

Flamenco - \$1,500 was requested and \$1250 was awarded

Tiny Pricks - \$400 was requested and granted

Early literacy everywhere - \$1250 was requested. \$1,000 was suggested and seconded

Weekly Drop in Classes for families and children - \$1,600 was requested. \$1,000 was suggested. \$1200 was thrown out and seconded.

Blank - Requested \$1,000. Brian suggested we do \$500. This was seconded

Jewish Film Fest - \$250 was granted for seal of approval out of the \$500 requested

The New Immigrant Experience - \$2,550 was requested. \$1,500 was suggested, then \$1,750, then \$1,600. \$1,600 was agreed upon

Stand Tall - \$2,000 was requested - They're pretty well funded so \$1,400 was suggested. Then \$1,500. Then \$1,600 since it was in the top two. \$1,600 was seconded and agreed upon.

We needed to find \$300 more dollars so we started back at the bottom and decided to reduce the amount for Lyra from \$600 to \$500. Then we reduce Emerging playwrights to \$900. Flamincan went down to \$1,200. There is \$50 left to reduce and Brian said he'd find that \$50 elsewhere.

We funded 27 projects in total.

Freeman asked if we could look at the next 10 grants to see if there were any in there we'd want to give some money to, but we decided that the 27 we've funded is good.

There was conversation about how we could do this differently in the future, including just fully funding the top scorers. But Brian likes the idea of funding more projects -- doling out money to more

Rachel suggested looking at the grants as a whole and see if all disciplines are represented. Lori suggested grouping them by category and making sure we fund at least one grant from each category, but Brian mentioned that it usually happens organically anyway. We sorted the 27 grants by discipline to make sure we have one in each and we discovered there was no literature grant funded. There was some discussion about it we should take money away to fund one from literature, but the consensus was that we shouldn't

Rachel wanted to do a scan to make sure we were granting a variety of representations and diversity, but the discussion was based on that we can't really skip around and ignore higher scores to make sure we're funding for diversity. This would have to happen prior to allocation. This would need to be a larger discussion about how to include for diversity and then submitted that to the state in writing. We could have this as a larger discussion based around on how we score as well. Brian mentioned that he feels beholden to the scores. But we could have a discussion in the future about how to better do the scoring.

Brian mentioned that for the spring grant round, we can add more to those applications, but we should discuss with Danielle since it was her idea. The LLC the guidelines are a bit different so we'd need to look into that to see if we can do more with diversity upfront.

For grants, we could do a sheet for the board members presenting. Something that makes the presenting more standardized across the board -- important things to hit upon.

Motion to approve the allocation was made and seconded. It was voted unanimously to approve.

Online Communication

The group is going to talk about refreshing the logo the next time they meet and possibly opening this up for submissions

Poet Laureate

No one from the committee was here so this was skipped

Public Arts

Brian applied for funds from the MCC for the public arts festival. He applied for \$5,000 for this. He's working with the DPW for more boxes and to refresh the benches. He said that getting funding for public art is one of the hardest things to get funding for. Freeman mentioned trying to get the Gazette to do a story about the murals so it can be put in the forefront of people's minds.

Freemon mentioned putting benches in Florence, but since it's not in the cultural district, we can't use funding for this. Freeman talked about benches that were made and then painted on. He said he'd send Brian the details on this.

Brian is also trying to coordinate with Thornes and Provisions to privately hire artists to paint their walls and have that be part of the public art fest.

Volunteer Committee

Lori said she would like to join this committee

First Night - Brian is going to call a volunteer sub-committee for First Night soon. Brian is going to put the call out for volunteers soon, likely next week (December 15). It's 3 hour shifts. The website and handout have parking and logistics. There is no shuttle for parking this year.

Artist Reception Committee

Recap - Freeman thought we could do more to get people to mingle. The bleachers were set up so that prohibited mingling a bit. The performances were great and the presentations were good as well. The food was good. A link was sent out to the survey to everyone who was invited. We received 57 responses back.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:02pm

Arts, Inc

Present:

Regrets: Kathy Service, George Myers, Esther White, Stephen Petegorsky

No one was present from Inc board

Respectfully submitted, Courtney Hummel, Municipal Clerk,